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1962/10/18

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: New York

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1349, October 18, 9 p.m.

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 1349; INFORMATION SAN JOSE 9

CUBA

Control: 14780

Rec'd: October 19, 1962

5:33 a.m.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED by RBHawthorn DATE 10/19/62

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Volio (Costa Rica) informed mission officer that Garcia-Inuhaustegui (Cuba) with whom he met yesterday, was quite unhappy with Costa Rican letter circulated by SYG. He observed letter circulated same date as letter transmitting Stevenson's comments on Dorticos' speech and assumed Costa Rican letter prompted by US. Volio said he disabused Garcia of this idea.

Garcia told Volio he very much worried that war could result from incident in connection with US "blockade" of Cuba. He termed US "blockade" an aggressive act and asked why Costa Rica and other LAs are associated with it. Volio said he responded that Costa Rica has no interest in any aggression against Cuba and his only worry is aggression from Cuba. He said close surveillance of Cuba, which Dorticos thinks might lead to incendiary incidents, was a necessary act of self-defense.

Volio found Garcia friendly and ingratiating as usual. Garcia called Dorticos' speech moderate and conciliatory and was at pains to call attention to the offers of negotiation contained therein. He also suggested, Volio said, that Ben Bella might endeavor act as mediator between the US and Cuba.

Volio told

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-2- 1349, October 18, 9 p.m. from New York

Volio told mission officer that while any real negotiations would have to involve LA countries as well as the US, he did think it advisable to take steps tending toward a reduction of tension at the present time. Volio thought "excessive attention" which US press is giving to Cuba only serves to increase tension.

STEVENSON

LM/RB

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